UNCLE SAM TEACHING DETECTIVES HOW TO DETECT

Schools in Washington and New York Formed by Department of Justice to Improve Efficiency of Government Sleuths

Special Correspondence to THE NEW YORK HERALD.

New York Herald Bureau, Washington, D. C., Nov. 26.

THE "School for Detectives" at which comic supplement humorists are fond of poking fun, has become a sober reality, and at least that part of the population of the United States which is criminally inclined is likely to change its opinion of such institutions in short order, according to William J. Burns, detective par excellence and director of the Bureau of Investigation of the Department of Justice.

Two Federal training schools for operatives of the Department of Justice have already been established, one at New York and the other at Chicago, and it is likely that a third will be located in the near future at San Francisco. Other schools probably will follow as the need for them develops.

In these institutions Federal detectives are given a thorough course of training in the principles of their work. Experts of proved knowledge and experience are their instructors. Courses are given in certain phases of law, in criminal psychology, and in evidence, and study is made of practically every branch of criminal endeavor. The great criminal cases of the past are studied, in much the same way as the cadets at West Point study the great battles of history, and the student detectives are required to take the roles of the various principals. Hypothetical cases are also taken up, the students sometimes playing the part of criminal and at other times that of the relentless sleuth.

Student Sleuth Studies Rights of the Citizen

But Attorney-General Harry Daugherty, the energetic head of the Department of Justice, has insisted that special emphasis be laid upon one particular phase of the students' instructions. He is determined that every operative of the department shall be thoroughly trained in what constitutes the rights of an American citizen, and he has let it be known that there is no place in his organization for the old school detective who was accustomed to "flash his badge" and take the law into his own hands, sometimes with cheerful disregard of the constitutional rights of the suspect.

Indeed it was as a result of Mr. Daugherty's somewhat novel conception of the functions of the Department of Justice that William J. Burns was retained as Director of the Bureau of Investigation. Mr. Daugherty believes that the Department of Justice should be an agency for the protection of the American people and he is also convinced that it can to some extent, at least, be made an instrument for the prevention of crime.

Mr. Daugherty had not held his seat in President Harding's Cabinet many weeks before he became convinced that the department was in need of complete reorganization. He saw that in the past there had been a good deal of lost motion in the vast and complicated machinery for preventing and punishing infractions of the Federal statutes of the United States.

Convinced that the situation demanded the services of an expert organizer, he looked about for some time and after considering the merits of several hundred applicants for the job, settled upon Burns as not only an investigator of international reputation as a "go getter" but a man with the necessary executive ability for conceiving and putting into effect a highly specialized and scientific human machine for the apprehension of criminals.

Without further ado, Mr. Daugherty called Burns in, told him what was wanted and gave him practically carte blanche as to the method of accomplishing it.

Various Departments to Be Incorporated in Justice Bureau

It has been intimated that when the new plan for the reorganization of all executive departments of the United States Government is complete, it will contain provisions for the consolidation of all the various bureaus of investigation now maintained by the different departments, into one central agency, to be under the direction of a single official. This would mean that the secret service, most ably administered by Chief William H. Moran, under the Treasury Department; the Inspectors' Department of the Post Office, which comes under the department of Postmaster-General Will H. Hays, and other similar agencies, will all be consolidated with the Department of Justice bureau.

As matters stand now the organization of Chief Moran is charged with the duty of protecting the life of the President and Vice-President of the United States and of apprehending those who commit crimes against the currency of the United States. The Post Office Inspector's Department, under the leadership of Chief Wesley Simmons, is assigned the task of apprehending those who make attempts against the United States mails. The Bureau of Investigations of the Department of Justice, as the name indicates, is responsible for the department's investigations in connection with practically all other violations of Federal statutes.

If the reorganization plans should go through, it is certain that Moran and Simmons would have the indorsement of Secretary Mellon and Postmaster-General Hays, respectively, for the positions of chief of the reorganized bureaus, as both these Cabinet officers are known to be well satisfied with the efficiency of their subordinates.

It is most emphatically certain, however, that Mr. Burns would have the indorsement of his chief, Attorney-General Daugherty, and that indorsement would probably have great weight with President Harding. As for Mr. Burns, he declines to discuss any such eventuality as his becoming the chief of all the Federal forces of investigation, putting all questions aside with the statement that he has no official knowledge of any such plans.

Mr. Burns is perfectly willing to talk about his present job in the Department of Justice, however, and he talks enthusiastically. He firmly agrees with Attorney-General Daugherty's idea that the department can be made an agency not only for the apprehension of criminals, but also that it will to a considerable degree operate for the prevention of crime. Being a scientific, modern detective, Mr. Burns believes in psychology, and he has made a profound study of criminal psychology.

It is the psychological effect of the fear of detection which Mr. Burns expects to bring into play as the means of preventing the potential criminal from becoming an actual violator of the laws of the land. To this end he is striving to make the Department of Justice Bureau of Investigation so efficient, so far-seeing in its ramifications and operations that it will put not the fear of God, perhaps, but so to speak, the fear of Burns into the hearts of all budding young potential criminals.

One of the first steps in this process of increasing the efficiency of the Department of Justice was taken by Mr. Burns when he began weeding out the "dead wood" in his organization. Burns has no objection to fat detectives, provided they are fat below and not above the necktie. He has gone through the record of every man in his department, and has interviewed most of his operatives in person.

Detectives Who Can Teach To Be Made Instructors

Upon some the axe has fallen. Others have been assigned to work for which they

W. H. Moran, director of the Secret Service, which deals chiefly with guarding the President and suppressing counterfeiting.

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seemed more fitted than what they had been doing. Still others have been detailed to one or the other of the two training schools for a course of instruction.

In a few instances men of exceptional ability, or of a peculiar aptitude for imparting their knowledge to others have been detailed to the instruction schools as professors or lecturers. A few members of the faculty of these schools have been engaged from outside the service because of outstanding qualifications for some highly specialized branch of instruction.

In no case, however, has a man been dismissed for political reasons. Ability alone, or at least capacity for improvement have been considered in retaining men, it being the cardinal principle of Burns that politics be kept out of his department.

So much for personnel. The second great step in the direction of greater efficiency was the extension of the operations of the Bureau of Investigations to practically every nook and corner of the United States. Under the old regime, the work of the department had been carried on in a somewhat perfunctory way. Operatives were sent out from headquarters on particular cases, and sometimes their mission took them into out of the way places. There was not, however, a unified and coordinated system for covering the whole of the United States.

What Burns did was so simple that one wonders why no one ever thought of doing it before. He merely annexed to his force of working operatives practically every city police department, county sheriff, village constable and other local peace officers in the United States. By securing this cooperation, which in most cases was given with great cheerfulness, Burns has virtually increased his personnel several thousandfold with little or no additional cost to the Government. It is as if he had in one fell swoop added a couple of hundred thousand active working members to his staff. The Department of Justice now stretches in a perfect network, not only from Portland, Ore., to Portland, Me., and from San Diego to Key West, but likewise betwixt and between. If Burns "wants" a man whose approximate whereabouts he knows, all he has to do is to notify his various agencies in that vicinity, and sooner or later that man is almost sure to be "picked up." Or, in the converse operation, if the Chief of Police of Podunk arrests a suspicious character and finds from papers or other evidences on his person facts which seem to indicate that the Department of Justice would be interested in the case, he promptly notifies Washington. In this way many important malefactors have been picked up.

In appearance Burns does not comport with the popular idea of a detective. He has none of the "earmarks" of either the "Sherlocko" of the funny papers, or even of the "flatfooted sleuth" of popular fiction. Beyond a certain keenness of the eye and a somewhat disconcerting manner of asking questions, there is nothing to suggest the professional investigator. Though he was born in 1861 he gives the idea of vigorous young middle age, and his whole manner of conducting business is suggestive of more than usual physical energy.

Burns is inclined to ridicule the conventional short story conception of the detective.

"There is nothing to the detective business but the application of energy, perseverance, common sense and imagination," he is fond of saying.

An examination of any of a dozen or more famous cases in which Burns was the chief investigator shows, however, that he has brought some other qualities into play from time to time. Notable of these is that of physical courage. Scarcely a day goes by that Burns does not receive a couple or more threatening letters, and in the past, especially in the heat of some big investigation such as that of the famous boodle cases in San Francisco, the notorious McNamara case or the various bomb outrages prior to and during the world war, the number of these threatening letters has run into hundreds a day.

The Crook Millionaire Is Quarry Like the Poor Criminal

Repeatedly attempts upon his life have been made, sometimes by bombs placed on the doorstep, sometimes by infernal machines sent through the mails, but they have never frightened him into abandoning his purpose.

Burns's effective activity in the McNamara case has been used to attempt to show that he was hostile to labor. Prior to September 4, 1910, he was considered anything but an enemy of labor. He had been employed in numerous instances to uncover and bring to justice doers of evil among the rich. The Oregon land fraud cases had been brought to a successful conclusion by him and his activities in bringing to justice boss Reuf of San Francisco, and Mayor Schmidt, his tool, had shown conclusively that he did not hesitate to ferret out the evil deed of the rich and powerful.

"My quarry was the rich then," said Burns, "and I went after the rich crook just as I would go after any menace to society. Whether a crook has millions at his command or just his wits and a knife makes no difference to me. My business is to detect criminals and bring them to the courts for trial. In San Francisco when I was after the men of wealth and long established political power, a price was set on my head, just as it was set afterward when I started to drive from their hiding places the men with torch and dynamite who fired and killed in labor's name.

"These two situations, bringing about personal peril, may be interesting, the one coming about through the prosecution of the rich malefactor and the other through the search for the malefactors who posed as representatives of labor.

"The wealthy criminals felt my net drawing closer and closer, and they seemed to realize that my elimination would help destroy that net. A man from the substrata of human depravity contracted with certain parties to murder five of us and to murder our chief witness, Gallagher. His price was $3,000 for the five lives. The deaths of Gallagher and myself would have meant the complete ruin of the chances of the prosecution for success. The assassin got busy, but fortunately we learned of his contract in time, and he was balked. Not, however, until he had blown up Gallagher's house. It is clearly in the recollection of the majority of newspaper readers what the next step was. Francis J. Heney, the special prosecutor of the graft cases, was shot down in open court.

"Some of my reports will show how, on the other hand, those alleged representatives and apostles of labor involved in the McNamara dynamiting outrages tried to plant dress suit cases filled with nitroglycerin in rooms adjoining mine at hotels, and how they planned to blow up my offices with every one in them."

As a matter of fact, Burns never has been an enemy of labor, just as he never has been an enemy of capital. When convinced that the representatives, real or alleged, of either labor or capital have been guilty of crime he has not hesitated to fight them, and a number of crooks now serving prison sentences would probably be willing to testify that he is "some fighter."

"I do not say," Mr. Burns observed, "that there are hundreds or thousands who would slay me, but I do know of those who tried their best to eliminate me. So far as I am concerned they have failed, but these same people have taken the lives of more than a hundred other human beings. I have brought a number of them to justice, and I am still alive and watchful for my own safety. My name is William J. Burns, and my address is Washington, New York, London, Paris, Montreal, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle, New Orleans, Boston, Philadelphia, Cleveland, and wherever else a law-abiding citizen may find need of men who know how to go quietly about throwing out of ambush a hidden assassin or drawing from cover criminals who prey upon those who walk straight."

One of the most important phases of the reorganization work which Mr. Burns is undertaking in the Department of Justice has to do with the establishment of a central finger print record bureau. This bureau is to be located in Washington, and in its establishment the Department of Justice will cooperate with the police departments of practically every city in America, as well as the various private protective associations throughout the country.

For years a small finger print bureau has been maintained by the Federal Government at Leavenworth, Kan., and while it has been useful, it has never attempted to operate on anything like the scale contemplated for the new central establishment. The records of the Leavenworth bureau, however, will be brought to Washington and incorporated into the new establishment.

Central Finger Printing Bureau to Be Formed

The records of this central bureau will constitute a "rogues' gallery" more exact and more valuable than any which might be filled with photographs of the most desperate criminals in the country.

The discovery that there is a peculiar significance in finger prints is an ancient one. Mr. Francis Galton, the famous sociologist, long ago observed that significance, partly of a ceremonial and partly of a superstitious nature, was attached to finger prints by the ancients, and by a series of patient experiments and observations, established that the finger prints of an individual remain practically unchanged from birth to death in old age.

His conclusions were based on examination of many sets of prints taken at different times, and covering the interval from childhood to boyhood, from boyhood to early manhood, from early manhood to middle age and from middle to extreme old age.

"As there is no sign except in one case," he said, "of change during any of these four intervals, which together almost wholly cover the ordinary life of man, we are justified in inferring that between birth and death there is absolutely no change in say 699 out of 700 of the numerous characteristics of the markings of the fingers of the same person such as can be impressed by him wherever it is desirable to do so. Neither can there be any change after death up to the time when the skin perishes through decomposition; for example, the marks on the fingers of many Egyptian mummies and on the paws of stuffed monkeys still remain legible."

The value of the collection which Mr. Burns is establishing in Washington is almost incalculable. As time goes on and it is added to, it will become a perfect address book for the identification of criminals. If a crime is committed in Los Angeles, for example, the police department of that city will as a matter of routine, forward to the central bureau in Washington, photographs of any finger prints which may be left at the scene of the crime. These finger prints will be compared with those on file in the central bureau and possibly they will be found to correspond with those of some criminal whose name is known. If they cannot be identified, they will be filed away with careful notations as to the circumstances of their being made, and when at some future date a crook, apprehended for a minor crime perhaps, is found to have the same finger prints, it will at once be known that he also committed the more serious previous crime.

The Washington central bureau will also cooperate with the finger print bureau of the identity section of the War Department, also located in Washington, which has a collection of approximately 5,000,000 finger print records of young men who came in contact with the draft system during the world war. This great collection has already proved its value, not only in identifying criminals but also in identifying unknown dead, and in a few cases of identifying persons who have become afflicted with mental aphasia.

Mr. Burns counts upon this central finger print bureau to play a very important part in his plan for making the Department of Justice an instrument for the prevention of crime. He argues that a man who knows his finger prints and name are on record in the central bureau will hesitate to engage in an undertaking where he is almost sure to leave the telltale imprints somewhere about.

It has been suggested that the Washington central bureau of finger prints might eventually be given a truly national character, and that finger print impressions would eventually be taken of every child at birth and forwarded to the central bureau as a matter of routine, thus serving as a perfect means of identification throughout the life of that particular child. This identification would prove useful in many other ways than in the detection of criminals, for it would often establish the innocence of persons wrongfully accused of crime, might very reasonably prove of use in the establishment of the identity of persons involved in cases of disputed inheritance, and certainly would be useful at times in identifying victims of train wrecks, floods and other disasters.

Mr. Burns disclaims any knowledge of an official movement to get legislation through Congress to establish such a national system of identification, but finger print experts in the Department of Justice, as well as in the War Department identification bureau, believe that such an institution would prove immensely valuable.

William J. Burns, head of the United States Government's detective forces, who plans vast betterment of the personnel.

William J. Burns Works Out Plan in Reorganizing Force and Consolidation of Crime Prevention Agencies May Be Result

Wesley Simmons, chief of the Post Office Inspectors, whose work may be consolidated with other detective branches.

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Mad Terrors of the New War Portrayed

AN article entitled "The First Attack" lately published in *La Revue Hebdomadaire* by Alphonse Seche has a special interest due to the coming international discussion of limiting armament to be held in Washington. This author, who may be called a successor of Paul Deroulede, who after 1870 kept shouting "Revenge!" like him no doubt expresses the views of many Frenchmen. Instead of favoring disarmament in any degree Seche advocates arming every citizen, man and woman, and entrusting the safety of France to a truly national army.

Seche uses the allegorical method of spreading these ideas. He tells of having spent the evening at the *Comedie Francais* where a revival was on of Corneille's "Horace" and how on his way home he rehearsed the vehement words of a character of the piece who inveighed against Rome and called down on the wicked city a deluge of fire. The author asks himself if such a rage against one's country is a natural feeling. He answers that he has heard equal invective in the mouths of Frenchmen who for their pacific notions and love of humanity would sacrifice their brothers and their country.

Crossing the Seine by the Pont Neuf he contemplates the illuminations in the water and recalls the nights of 1917-1918 when the same scenes were lighted by the bursting of German bombs, &c.

He hears the noise of a motor over his head and takes it for a patrol airplane. At the same time he has a hallucination and fancies that he overlooks the *entire* city—Arch of Triumph, Trocadero, Eiffel Tower, streets, gardens, monuments. It lies under his eye like an illuminated map.

A tremendous explosion followed by others interrupts his revery. All at once the great, sleeping city at all points bursts into flames. Men flee from the ruins, uttering cries of fright. A bomb falls on the Palace of Justice, obliterating the vast building.

Was the author afraid? He does not know. But he was powerless to even try to escape the universal destruction.

A period of unconsciousness follows, from which he rouses in the dawn, although the light is so sombre he is in doubt if it be day. Everyhere he sees ruin, of statue, church, palace, not a house is intact. The Louvre is but a mass of rubble.

He picks his way to Notre Dame. It was a ruin. Not far from the statue of Charlemagne lies a broken airplane, a colossus, with dislocated wings and its entrails still on fire. Near by lie the bodies of four aviators. They were the instruments of death.

This is the first attack. In a few instants it had annihilated the work of ten centuries.

The author sits among the ruins and asks himself what definite disaster is to follow. What is to be done to meet or avoid new attacks?

"I did not yet know," he says, "that the Ministries of War, Interior, Marine, had been totally destroyed, that the aviation fields, hangars, &c., were but a mass of glowing embers. What I saw prepared me for worse evils to follow."

This destruction might have been foreseen, these officials had done nothing to prevent it. Why?

Because of lack of imagination, because of routine.

The lessons of the last war had been quickly forgotten. The military spirit repels invention; it is a spirit of application; it suspects every new invention.

War, moreover, is a work demanding all the faculties of man, physical, moral, intellectual. The most industrious the most courageous, the strongest triumph. Famous manœuvres do not gain a battle. Great captains were great because they had new ideas. To organize a surprise and to avoid being taken by surprise—that is the art of war.

The leaders had disputed day after day whether a military service of eighteen months or two years was preferable!

Because they had constructed some thousands of tanks, some hundreds of airplanes, they thought the country was prepared!

These "defenders" had paid no more attention to the plans of some young officers than they had given to the ideas of national defence of a writer, a pekin! whose book, appearing in 1916, had cast a prophetic vision on the war. Then the author writes:

"It is a tradition to put the military on one side, civilians on the other. It is the ancient distinction between combatant and noncombatant. There is always a Chinese wall supposed to be on the frontier, behind which the nation continues its normal life as far as possible. Because it was so in 1917, because our state of being unprepared constrained us to accept this paradox, the Government has accepted the necessity of falling into the same error.

"The dead, men, women and children, lie there by hundreds of thousands under the ruins of Paris. Why have these nonprofessionals of war been sacrificed?

"Armies? Derision! There is only a nation. And since this nation is vulnerable *en bloc* it ought to be defended *en bloc* or allowed to defend itself."

After accusing military leaders and political parties of incapacity, politics, grafting, some incapable of conceiving, others not wishing to take the trouble of organizing and still others who refuse to believe, from sentimental reasons, in the return of war, the author proclaims that the only safety is in a nation armed. A word, he says, but adds that this word will be found sufficient.

Origin of Steeplechase

THE etymology of steeplechase is too obvious to need set explanation. Founders of the sport merely fixed upon a distant steeple and rode straight to it, crossing gallantly hedge, ditch, paling, turf or timber, pasture, crops, moorland or ridge and furrow—whoso riding straightest, came in first and was winner.

But there are few, indeed, to whom a wild goose chase bears any implication of sport, yet the phrase derives from a sport hazardous, indeed. It is said to have begun in Ireland, where a chosen leader took mounted men cross country, but chose always the roughest, wildest going to be found. If mischance befell the leader some other took up the office—occasionally there was a change of leaders if the first proved timorous. For danger real and thrilling was the spice of the wild goose chase.

The winner was not he who came home first, but he who had flunked nothing in the route, even possibly have gone further around to negotiate an extra hazard.

Knowing this I have wondered a little if the Wild Geese—the Irish legions who, fighting for alien kings, have shown themselves prodigies of valor—did not take their name from the sport nearest the heart of their homeland.

Men Outrun Horses

IN the days of the "Wild and Woolly West" plainsmen and travellers by overland wagons held to the belief that a long journey could be made more speedily by man afoot than on horseback. In the army the impression is general that the infantry can out-travel the cavalry on long, grinding marches, but to the Santo Domingo Indians of New Mexico belongs the credit of chasing wild horses over the ranges of hills until the animals are exhausted and submit to capture.

No Marathon runners have ever been recruited from this tribe of Pueblo Indians, for the wonderful powers of endurance of the runners of the tribe are little known outside of the district immediately surrounding their village.

These runners of the Santo Domingo come from a race of fleet footed ancestors. Like all tribes of American Indians, they have accepted the means of travelling best suited to the country where they live. The Sioux of the Dakotas are horsemen. The Santo Domingos have been walkers and runners always. Their physique shows the result of generations of footmen. Great chests, almost abnormal in development, slope downward to slender waists, while sinewy calves proclaim the strength to hold to a hard trail.

Usually their chases of the bands of wild horses owned by the tribe are matters of necessity. The enormous stretches of broken country where the horses graze, and the untamed spirits of animals, many of which have not been touched by man in their several years of existence in the hills, make it necessary to wear the creatures out and run them down.